

The Mid Southern California Area 9 Newsletter

The Monthly General Service Newsletter for Area 9 of the General Service Conference
P.O.Box 51446, Irvine, CA 92619-1446 www.msca09aa.org

August 2007

MSCA Area 9 includes all AA groups in the counties of Los Angeles (South of Rosecrans Ave.), San Bernardino, Riverside, and Orange.

Concept 8 – Oversight Versus Over-Management

Concept 8 (Short Form) *The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of over-all policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.*

Continuing in the vein of Concepts 6 and 7, this Concept further defines the role of the General Service Board. Ever aware of the continuing danger to our Fellowship of the unchecked quest for money and authority, Bill W. writes in his essay on Concept 8, ***“However, experience dating from our earliest days strongly suggests that future Trustees and service workers, in the supposed interests of accounting simplicity, tax savings, and hoped-for efficiency, will be periodically tempted to go in for concentrations and consolidations of one kind or another. Should this be again attempted, we know that the risk of making an administrative shambles out of the total operation will be great indeed”***. Throughout the essay on Concept 8 Bill reinforces the idea that the best style of management for a business is, well, a type of business management. This Concept grants oversight of the two corporations wholly owned by A.A. – Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, (AAWS) and the Grapevine, Inc. directly to the General Service Board. It also instructs that the Board of Trustees should not and cannot be directly involved in the daily, weekly and monthly management of these two corporations. They are granted the power to elect the Directors of the corporations, (subject to approval by the General Service Conference), after which, the Trustees are instructed to “plan, manage and execute” their own duties and leave the management of the two corporations to the responsible boards.

As much as any other principle, this Concept has been directly responsible for allowing the entities of A.A. that are involved in business matters to manage those business affairs without constant second-guessing, (but, as you would expect, this still goes on, somewhat) and allows the Groups to tend to the matters of 12th Step work. This is where the material is truly separated from the spiritual. Now the real reason this Concept works is found in the next Concept – Concept 9. I'll give you a hint – Concept 9 deals with Leadership.

A member of A.A. in Orange County

Delegates's Corner, Aug. 2007

I would like to talk this month about the Membership Survey that will be conducted between the dates of August 1 and 14th. Every 3 years over 700 groups are chosen at random to participate in this survey, this year MSCA Area 09 had 23 groups chosen. The groups are ready and I hope that we can have 100% of the surveys returned to me by August 20 and no later than August 27th. I would like to thank all the DCMCs, DCMS, and all other Area Members that have been provided assistance in getting the surveys out to all the chosen groups.

By now everyone should have had some time to digest the Conference Reports that I have given at the District level, and I hope that this provided some interesting discussion at the Districts and Home Groups. At the August ASC I hope to have the final Conference Reports. So if you would like a Final Conference Report make arrangements to come to Hemet on August 12th. Remember that it is never too early to start on the proposed agenda items for the 58th GSC, so put on your thinking caps and let us aware of your Group Concerns and bring those to the ASC and the Assembly.

I would like to ask if any of the AA members know of any AA members who are of Vietnamese heritage because another Area has had a special request to reach out to this Remote Community. You can let me know through our website at delegate@msca09.org. I also would like to thank all the Districts for their hospitality in presenting my Conference Reports.

Remember that in October we will be electing a whole new panel of Area Officers so now is the time to start to think about whether you would like to stand for Area Office. Any questions on this process or how much of a commitment it takes to be an Area Officer feel free to ask myself or any of the current Officers or past Area Officers. I am going to wrap this up now and I hope to see some new faces at our Area Meetings.

Love thru Service Bruce H.

Website Usage Continues to Grow

Our MSCA website continues to receive more and more visitors. In the month of June, 2007, we averaged 327 visitors per day to our website!

Seeking Outside Help

When we work with others especially that newcomer that walks through that door confused, and befuddled not knowing where to go or what to do they start asking, and do not always get the most responsible answer.

The reason for this article is because I would love to see that new person that is vulnerable, and like a child, very impressionable, taught and handled responsibly. There are people in A.A. that think they know better than the doctors the Big Book tells me we know only a little, there is know where in the book, or any of our other literature that gives somebody the right to play doctor and say get off your medication you are not sober, or if you are on medication I will not sponsor you.

People have committed suicide because of those words, or wound up in long term mental Hospitals, I hear this stuff all the time makes me very sad I was at H & I recently and heard of somebody going to facility (Hospital) and told all the patients to get off their medication they lost their panel it made me ill, we need to be responsible I have a friend she is a new comer, she takes medication for anxiety she ask somebody to sponsor her that person said not until you get off your meds, she is taking it the way a doctor prescribed that is what I was always taught, and I am coming up on 26 years.

There is a pamphlet called (the AA member-medications & other Drugs) this was put together by physicians in A.A. there are several points we must follow when it comes to someone on medication: No A.A. member plays doctor. Be completely honest with yourself, and your doctor. These are just a couple of points, and they are in the front page.

This pamphlet is very informative when it comes to what is needed concerning prescribed medication. The book says sometimes we need to seek outside help. It is like telling somebody to stop taking medication for their heart, or insulin for diabetes. Unless you have a PhD or MD behind your name, I personally am not about to listen. It is called practicing medicine without a license. We need to be responsible for our own sobriety. (Responsibility is the key word.) If you're not sure how to work with others or sponsor someone properly read the sponsorship pamphlet, and working with others in the Big Book.

Scott R, Anaheim, CA., Group Relations, O.C.C.O

News from the AAGrapevine

Editorial staff at the AAGrapevine have begun work on the August and September issues of the Grapevine and La Viña. The August Grapevine features stories on "Moments of Grace," the instant when writers first understood that AA might work for them.

September features a special section about AA on Campus, with stories by young members who were able to stay sober through the challenges confronting them at school.

The September/October La Viña will offer stories about the family afterward

New i-Say Format: The online Grapevine Forum is now a threaded bulletin board so we can better follow a conversation and share our experiences.

Plus, we can now get e-mail alerts for new messages posted!

A new CD from the Grapevine: A Lifetime of AA: Grapevine Stories from AA's Old-Timers. This CD includes: "Consider the Old-Timers: They Have No Problems--or Have the?", "Meetings, Meetings, and More Meetings"; "Growth Allowed"; "We've Got What You Need"; "Almost Too Old for AA"; "What We Were Like"; "A Lifetime of Learning"; "Life Goes On"; "My Sponsor Walks With Me"; and "The Redwoods". Contains recordings remastered from the audiocassette tape Old-Timers Corner plus two new stories from the Grapevine.

For Grapevine Representative information or help, call or email MSCA AAGrapevine Committee co-chair, Linda C.

Tradition 8

Our A.A. experience has taught us that:

Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional. We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire. But we may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform those services for which we might otherwise have to engage nonalcoholics. Such special services may be well recompensed. But our usual A.A. Twelfth Step work is never to be paid for.

Come One, Come all to the Public Information Committee

When we meet in Hemet, we will be viewing the Public Service Announcement "Force of Nature" as it has to do with a Proposal being brought forward by MSCA 09 Public Information Committee. It is only 60 seconds and will be shown after the Delegate's Report at 10:15. I hope you will all take a minute to view it, and then we will have an informed group conscience, when we vote on it.

Secondly, we are excited about September 16, 2007. The PI Committee has been very busy preparing its 2nd Annual Workshop which will be held on 805 E. Sycamore St. in Anaheim at the VFW Hall.

Our program consists of a Delegate currently serving on the PI Committee as his assignment, 2 judges, a youth teacher, an alternative sentencing Director and a DUI Instructor.

This includes lunch and is hosted by District 24. We hope this will be an informative workshop and invite all those committees who have displays, to bring them so out professionals can view them.

It has meant a great deal to be Chair of this fine Public Information Committee!

I will write an article after the event as I did last year and encourage any Committee people or attendees to do the same.

Thru love and service, MSCA 09 Public Information Chair, Linda H.

About AudioGrapevine

AudioGrapevine is AA Grapevine magazine in audioformat. Download and listen to two months of AA Grapevine magazine including the Editor's note; PO Box 1980; all the stories from AA members sharing their experience, strength and hope; plus the humor section of the magazine.

Subscribe, download, and listen - anytime, anywhere.

How it works

On the 21st of each month, the new issue will be available for download along with the previous month's issue. This allows AudioGrapevine subscribers to have 2 issues (current and past), each month that they subscribe.

If you subscribe to AudioGrapevine for one year, you will receive an email notifying you that the new issue has arrived.

One year AudioGrapevine subscription: \$20.00

Visit www.aagrapevine.org!

MSCA 09 Area Assembly

mid southern california area

hosted by district 12

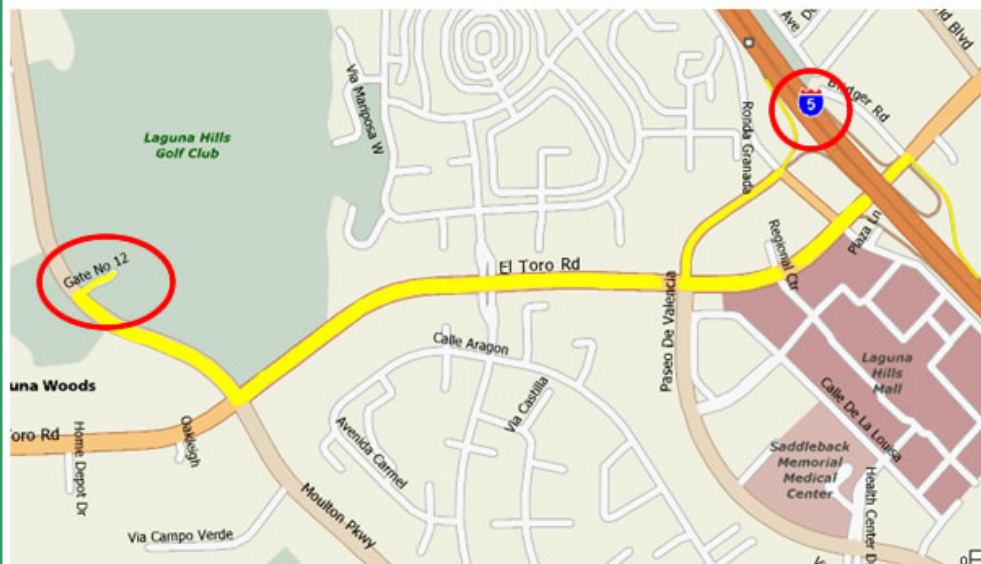
DATE: SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 2007 - 9am

**ADDRESS: LEISURE WORLD CLUBHOUSE TWO, GATE 12
24112 MOULTON PARKWAY
LAGUNA WOODS, CA 92653**

DIRECTIONS:

5 FWY SOUTH: exit El Toro Rd., go straight at the stop light (Ave. Carlota), turn right at El Toro Rd. (1st street), turn right on Moulton Parkway, turn right at Gate 12 entrance to guard shack.

5 FWY NORTH: exit El Toro Rd, turn left on El Toro, turn right on Moulton, turn right at Gate 12 entrance to guard shack.

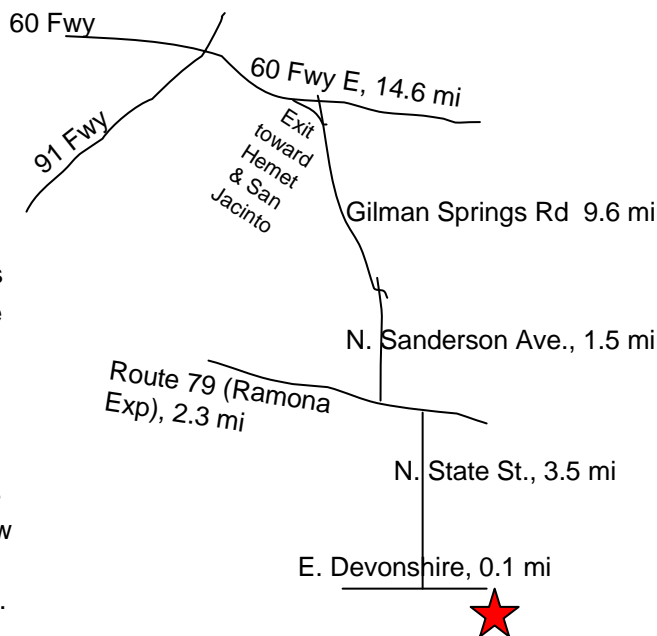


www.msca09aa.org | www.msca09aa.org

Aug 12 ASC (District 14) *(The ASC will vote on which proposals to put onto the next Assembly Agenda)*, James Simpson Memorial Center, 305 E. Devonshire Ave., Hemet, CA 92543

Directions from Orange County:

Take the 91 Freeway East to the 60 Freeway.
 Merge onto CA-60 E toward INDIO. Then drive 14.6 miles
 Take the exit toward HEMET / SAN JACINTO. Then drive 0.3 miles.
 Merge onto GILMAN SPRINGS RD. Drive 9.6 miles.
 Merge onto N SANDERSON AVE / CA-79 S toward HEMET / SAN DIEGO. Drive 1.5 miles
 Turn LEFT onto RAMONA EXPY / CA-79. Drive 2.3 miles
 Turn RIGHT onto N STATE ST / CA-79. Continue to follow N STATE ST. Drive 3.5 miles.
 Turn LEFT onto E DEVONSHIRE AVE. Then drive 0.1 mi.
 End at **305 E Devonshire Ave**



Contributions: the basics

First let me thank you and the groups of Area 9 for all you do to support 12 step work. Your contributions large and small allow us to reach out the hand of AA and keep the lines of communication open. That being said as an Area treasurer there are a few things I would like to explain:

Here's an example of what I need to see to ensure correct identification of your group:

Tuesday Night Crosstalk Group # 127868
 128 N. Broadway Redondo Beach Tuesday 8pm
 Please Send Receipt to Treasurers Name 123 S. This St. Irvine CA, 92619

Q: Why do you need all this information? A: To help make sure right group gets the credit

Q: What is GSO Number? GSO number is 13 digit number issued by General Service Office for groups, it is used by District, Area and GSO in communication with groups

Q: What does GSO number look like? Full number from GSO will look something like this:

000142143-09-12 which means group #142143, area 09, district 12

Q: What information do I need? Group name, location, city, day + time, 6 digit GSO number

Name and address donation receipt is going to along with phone # or email if you wish.

I receive contributions every day with a cryptic note like "8pm women's group" with no

Location, city, day + time or GSO number. There are about 1400 registered groups in Area 9 and 5674 records in the area treasurer's data base, hard to find the right group in all that without something to point me

in the right direction! I also get donations without return or incorrect addresses so where do I send the receipt?

Q: How come receipt has "X" number?

A: See above, if your group is "unknown" or it has no GSO # it gets an "X" number.

Q: where should I put information? Include note or write GSO # on check with return address

Q: I let the central office know we changed our group information why hasn't it changed on my receipt from GSO, Area or district?

A: It's best to let all the entities know changes because we all have separate data bases and are autonomous.

Thank you in advance for using or passing along this information, that 6 digit GSO number is like a zip code in general service. It pinpoints your group in the database and speeds up the treasurer's job. I can find your group without it if you give me the other information like Group's Name, time and day you meet, meeting address. Every receipt sent back to you should have either the GSO number underlined or an X number explained above along with a receipt number and a date. Some people don't use the GSO number and send me something like "group #173" or "group 567F6" which as some of you know is a map location and not a group number. You would be surprised how many contributions I receive with no return address. Didn't get a receipt for a check you sent, might be I don't know where to send it. Here's a few stats your group might find interesting, number of donations processed in a year; 2405. Checks written; 305. Got any questions, suggestions or just want to say hi? Email me at Treasurer@MSCA09AA.ORG

Mike M. Area Treasurer

Leadership vs Bleeding Deacons.

I will always be grateful for the love and tolerance I've received as an alcoholic. I am also grateful for those that have pointed out my mistakes or mistaken thinking. Bill said the good can be the enemy of the best and AA needs the best to ensure it's survival. Sometimes we as a group take the softer easier route to get things done. We elect those who may be willing but not able to fulfill their duties, sacrificing our principals to expedite our desires. As I've said many times before God qualifies the called but you have to give him something to work with! There are reasons we have qualifications for positions and experience in another position is encouraged. How would you like some one to take you through the steps that hasn't done them themselves? AA is not like the government I hope that promotes the inept; it takes more then a good smile to serve. Humility and an ability to communicate the language of the heart are what I look for. I don't need a salesman or manager, just an alcoholic with a desire and ability to serve. In the service manual it describes the qualities of true leaders: *"Good leadership never passes the buck. Another qualification for leadership is give and take, the ability to compromise cheerfully whenever a proper compromise can cause a situation to progress in what appears to be in the right direction. We cannot, however, compromise always. Now and then it is truly necessary to stick flat-footed to one's conviction about an issue until it is settled."* When I look for leaders I look for people with qualities I admire and would wish to emulate. People who embody our code of love and tolerance while being living examples of our steps and traditions. Quiet, humble people as opposed to the "politico" it describes in Concept 9 of the service manual. *"A politico is an individual who forever trying to 'get the people what they want'."* It also says that rotating leadership is best and that is a quality I deeply admire, the ability to let go of a position and "pass it on". It says somewhere in our literature a Bleeding deacon is one who is constantly contriving to hold or get reelected to one position or another because they don't believe we can get along with out them. I love General Service but

I understand you got along fine before I got here and you'll be fine after I leave. One can never say we lack personality in General Service, it's principles we sometimes lack. The principle of taking an informed group conscience, the principle of having a careful and honest discussion with all voices heard the principle of agreeing to disagree in a respectful manner.

Yet no matter how much my actions say to the contrary some question my motives and my faith in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. I put my faith in God and the 12 steps, not personalities. Some want to go to work to provide the services described in the service manual, while others say "Gee Ma, ain't it great the wind stop blowing?" I believe that in General Service we have to live these 36 principles and strive for improvement as individuals, groups and Area. We must take our time to make sure the decisions we make are the best for AA as a whole. We are given great responsibility, to choose our trusted servants, our leaders. If we choose based on who we like rather than what is best for AA as a whole we do a disservice to ourselves as well as our groups. Someone said to me "You attract more flies with honey then vinegar", well BS seems to attract flies too! I didn't get into AA to be popular or attract flies; I'm here to be of service and to give something back. Some of the people I disagree with are the most fun because at least they're honest as opposed to those that smile to your face and practice character assassination behind your back. Sometimes I get in trouble for saying what I think but thankfully you've taught me to admit when I'm wrong. There are times I wish everything were as simple as the Bleeding Deacons make it out to be but alas they are not. If we want AA to grow we need to make hard choices and thoughtful choices. If you want to be one of the flies go for whatever the Bleeding Deacons offer, if you want to be of service then use the brain God gave you and make wise choices. Leadership is absolutely vital to the Area's future which is why Bill included a description of leadership in the service manual. We can either ignore the problems we have or with proper leadership tackle those problems together.

In Love and Service, Mike M.

49th ICYPAA in Los Angeles

Aug. 31-Sep.2, 2007

ICYPAA is the International Conference of Young People in AA. It's an annual gathering of young AA's who come together to carry the message of AA and celebrate sobriety with meetings, fellowship and lots of fun!!!. ICYPAA attendees return home better prepared to carry the message to young people in AA.

This years ICYPAA will be in Los Angeles and is being organized to generate an unprecedented attendance of young people in AA from the national and international AA community. This is really special because ICYPAA hasn't been in L.A. since 1965 and the next time ICYPAA is in Southern California you might not be young anymore!

If you or someone you know is interested in attending, please visit www.49thicytaa.org for more information. You can register for the conference and book your hotel room online as well as get conference program and event information. You can also find out more info by calling the ICYPAA info-Line: (310) 216-8771.

The MSCA Assembly includes permanent committees responsible for conducting much of the AA business activity in the Area. We have Standing and Coordinate Committees. Chairs and cochairs of the Standing committees are listed below.

Panel 56 Area Standing Committee Chairs, Cochairs, et al.

Archives Chair...Pete B	Literature Cochair, Spanish ...Cesar F
CEC...Michael M	Newsletter Chair...Russ D
CPC...Ernesto M	Newsletter Cochair, Spanish...Raul C
CPC Cochair, Spanish...tbd	Public Information Chair...Linda H
Convention Liaison...Gary M	Public Information, Spanish...Damien
Convention Liaison, Spanish...tbd	Registration...Ben
Corrections Chair...Alex N	Special Needs Chair...Rich W
DCM School...Jim B	Special Needs Cochair, Spanish....vacant
DCM School Spanish Cochair.....	Translation... Jorge M
Electronic Media Sub-Committee...Nick M	Treatment Facilities Chair...Phil L
Finance Chair...Joseph M	Web servant...Nancy R
Grapevine Chair...Linda C	Sound Dude...Joseph M
La Vina Chair...Francisco D	
GSR School...Scott R	
GSR School, Spanish... Jose A	
Literature Chair...Patrick C	
Coffee person...Ana S	

Upcoming Events

Aug 12 ASC (District 14) (*The ASC will vote on which proposals to put onto the next Assembly Agenda*), James Simpson Memorial Center, 305 E. Devonshire Ave., Hemet, CA 92543

Sep 9 **Assembly (GSRs vote)** (District12), Leisure World Clubhouse Two, Gate 12, 24112 Moulton Parkway, Laguna Woods, CA 92653

Sep 16, Sunday, 2nd Annual Public Information Workshop, 805 E. Sycamore St., Anaheim from 8am to 3:30pm.

Oct. 6 Heritage Day

Oct 14 Assembly (District 8), Corona High, 1150 W. Tenth St., Corona, CA 92882, 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Nov. 3 Servathon (Dist 17)

Nov. 11 ASC (*The ASC will present proposals, but no vote will be taken on them*) Dist 18

Dec. 9 ASC, (D 23)(*The ASC will vote on which proposals to put onto the next Assembly Agenda*)

Schedule for most MSCA Assemblies/ASCs

9:30 am....GSR School

9:30 am....Delegate's Sharing Session

10:15 am....Committees meet

11:30 am.....Lunch

Noon... **Main Meeting** (which normally includes introductions of new GSRs, Area officers' reports, presentation/ discussion/ voting on proposals, committee reports, other reports)

3:30...Adjournment

Panel 56 Area Officers

Chairperson: Craig S,
chair@msca09aa.org,

Delegate: Bruce H,
delegate@msca09aa.org,

Alt. Delegate: Joe B,
altdelegate@msca09aa.org,

Secretary: Oscar G,
secretary@msca09aa.org,

Treasurer: Mike M,
treasurer@msca09aa.org,

Registrar: Jason S,
registrar@msca09aa.org,